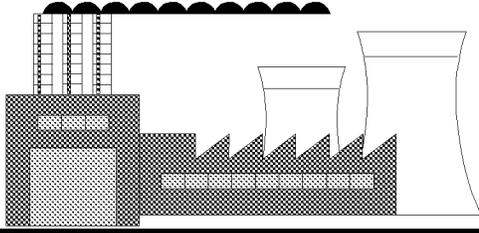


# PROPERTY TAX NEWS



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## 2000 CONFERENCE AGENDA FINALIZED

Final preparations are being made for the 2000 Conference on Assessment Administration being held October 23-27 at the Holiday Inn North in Lexington. Attendance at the conference is mandatory for PVAs under KRS 131.140 "unless prevented by illness or other reason satisfactory to the secretary."

Registration will begin Monday at 1:00 p.m. and will also be held Tuesday beginning at 8:30 a.m. Vendors will be set up in the Exhibit Hall Monday at 5:00 p.m. and a reception to visit with vendors will begin Monday at 6:30 p.m.

The Kentucky Chapter of IAAO is planning a trip to Cardinal Hill Hospital on Monday afternoon and evening to spread "A Pumpkin Full of Cheer". Members will help patients decorate pumpkins provided by Logan County PVA Ben Brown and Patti Royster's Deer Run Nursery in Bagdad.

The conference officially begins at 9:00 Tuesday morning with an opening general session featuring speaker John Hall, followed by a luncheon. State Treasurer Jonathan Miller will be guest speaker at the luncheon.

Concurrent workshops begin Tuesday afternoon at 1:00. The Kentucky Chapter of IAAO will have a meeting at 4:00 p.m. followed by a hotel manager's reception and the IAAO reception and silent auction beginning at 6:00. Music for Monday and Tuesday night's IAAO reception will be provided by Anthony Beckley, aka "DJ Smurf".

This year's conference features six concurrent workshop sessions on topics such as PVA World of Webs, GIS, the commercial sales file, public relations, digital cameras, subsidized housing, TRIM, KVIS, the homestead exemption, personal and real property, and GeoSync. Luncheons will be provided on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Extra luncheon tickets can be purchased for \$12.00 each.

Wednesday night will feature "A Night at the Races". Televisions will show previously run horse races. Participants are invited to bet on the race just like it was live (play money will be given to everyone for this purpose). At the end of the races, participants can use their winnings to purchase items at a silent auction following the last race.

The conference will conclude with the traditional banquet and dance. Music for the dance will be provided by People's Choice. Extra banquet tickets are available for \$20.00.

Questions regarding the conference should be directed to the Education and Research Branch at (502) 564-8340.



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**PVA OFFICERS ELECTED AT SUMMER CONFERENCE**

Teri Bennett, Hardin County PVA, was re-elected President of the PVA Association during the summer conference held in Northern Kentucky July 24 - 27. Karen Bushart, Clark County PVA, was elected Executive Vice-President and C. J. Baker, Rowan County PVA, was elected Legislative Vice President. Janice Banister, Lyon County PVA, and Karen Curtis, Robertson County PVA, were re-elected to the positions of secretary and treasurer, respectively.

The following PVAs were appointed to serve on committees:

**Legislative:**

- Bill Alward, Muhlenburg County
- Ron Durbin, Daviess County
- T. W. Todd, Pulaski County
- Denise Harper Angel, Jefferson County
- Patsy Conway, Franklin County
- Brad McDowell, Shelby County
- Chuck Adkins, Boyd County

**Executive:**

- Ben Brown, Logan County
- Mark Straney, Meade County
- Barbara Tichenor, Nelson County
- Denise Harper Angel, Jefferson County
- Eddie Tamme, Boyle County
- Betty Ripato, Lewis County
- Joe Dunn, Wolfe County

Deloris Hatler, Ballard County, was presented the Outstanding PVA award at the awards luncheon on Tuesday. Outstanding Deputy was awarded to Lena Kirby from Allen County. Karen Curtis, Robertson County PVA, was the recipient of The Gold Service Award. Teri Bennett and Karen Bushart received 100 Percent Awards for, among many other things, their tireless work during the 2000 Legislative Session. Outstanding Revenue Cabinet Employee was presented to Cindy Meholovitch.

Next year's conference is tentatively scheduled to be held in Owensboro.

**IN MEMORY OF LOVEL HALL**

Lovel Hall, PVA in Floyd County since December 1973, died Monday, August 28, 2000. He was 53 years old. Mr. Hall had announced his retirement effective August 31 and was honored with a retirement reception at the PVA Summer Conference as well as a dinner held at Jenny Wiley State Park.

Mike Haydon, Secretary of the Revenue Cabinet, said of Hall, "He was an outstanding public servant who worked every day to make the lives of Floyd Countians better. He will long be remembered as both an outstanding public official and a great human being."

Hall is survived by his wife, Cendia, two daughters and three grandchildren. Our sympathies are with them and the rest of the Hall family.

**SEVERANCE TAXES NOW UNDER DIVISION OF TECHNICAL SUPPORT**

There are some new faces in the Department of Property Valuation. Administration of the severance taxes has moved from the Miscellaneous Tax Section to the Mineral Assessment Compliance Branch within the Department of Property Valuation. This includes coal, oil and natural gas and other minerals. Questions regarding these severance taxes can be directed to Elizabeth Engler, Anna Guoin, or David Gabbard, the Branch Manager, at (502) 564-8334.

**PVA OPEN ENROLLMENT SCHEDULED**

Open enrollment for health insurance and flexible spending accounts for Property Valuation Administrators (PVAs) and Deputies is from September 18 - October 6, 2000. Information on the various options was distributed to each PVA office in September.

**Please take time to read all materials carefully.** Decisions made during open enrollment are in effect for one year and cannot be changed until the next enrollment period unless you have a qualifying event.

This year the state is again increasing the defined contribution in certain counties where only one insurance provider is offered and the lowest priced single coverage is higher than \$234.00 a month (the state contribution this year). This information is included in your rate sheet.

If you choose to stay with the same insurance provider, you do not need to fill out a new form. If you waived coverage for last year, and plan to do so again this year, you must complete Section I and Section V of the application. If you waive coverage, you must complete a Commonwealth Choice form in order for your benefit to go into your medical flexible spending account.

During the open enrollment period, employees are still free to add dependents, drop dependents or change plans, plan types, and benefit level.

**To allow for mail delays and possible corrections, all forms must be returned as soon as possible.** All forms must be postmarked by October 6 to be accepted for open enrollment. Questions may be directed to the PVA Administrative Support Branch at (502) 564-5620.

**A SMALL TOWN GAL'S EXPERIENCE IN THE BIG CITY**

**Karen Curtis, Robertson County PVA**

I had the honor of representing the great Commonwealth of Kentucky as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles August 14-17. The experience was exhilarating, exciting and emotional all rolled up into one feeling.

A typical day included meeting in the hotel restaurant for breakfast, at which time the itinerary for the day was given to each of us, then off to morning caucus meetings, meet in the lobby where we would be bused for lunch, then back to the hotel to dress for the convention which began at 1:30 p.m. At the conclusion of the convention day, we would be bused back to the hotel, where we would board another bus for dinner. An exhausting day, but an exciting one.

The first evening President Clinton was the keynote speaker and was preceded by the first lady's speech. I cannot express the emotions and awe that you feel just being in the same building with the President of the United States, much less just a few hundred feet away from him.

The second evening, Ted Kennedy was the keynote speaker, with Caroline Kennedy speaking prior and introducing him. This brought me to tears just to think of the tragedy that family has experienced and that Caroline was the only remaining member of John Kennedy's family and legacy.

Wednesday evening, Senator Lieberman spoke to the group and got us pumped up and ready for the big finale. Also, this was roll call night, where votes were cast for Democrat nomination. All of Kentucky's votes were cast for Al Gore.

Thursday evening got started with Tipper Gore sharing some of her life with the Vice President with us through her speech and slides. I'm here to tell you that Tipper rocks! She was very open about her mental breakdown and her life in general. Finally, what we had all waited for, Al

Gore made his speech and accepted the nomination. It was a very moving speech, which again brought me to tears. (As I said, my emotions were running rampant!)

Then came the balloons. I do not believe that I have ever been up to my armpits in balloons before in my life. It was like being in quicksand. You could not move, and we loved every minute of it. We would take off our lapel pins and burst them and they would just dump more balloons. My adrenaline was going through the roof.

It was a great thrill and honor for me to be able to shake hands with former president Jimmy Carter and his wife Rosalyn. I also was in reach of Rev. Jesse Jackson and saw in person Cheryl Tiegs, Meg Ryan, Larry King, Joe Piscopo, Joe Pesci, Dylan McDermott, and Tommy Lee Jones.

I also did most of the tourist things, walked down Rodeo Drive, went in the Beverly Wilshire (where Pretty Woman was filmed), went through Mann's Chinese Theater, compared my footprints with the stars on the sidewalks, and drove up in the hills to view some of the mansions.

The Governor said to me on the first evening at dinner, "Who would have ever thought that a boy from Flatwoods and a gal from Mt. Olivet would have come this far?" I gently reminded him that he was Governor, but I was still that gal from Mt. Olivet and that I was having the time of my life. That conversation reaffirmed my patriotism and the great sense of pride that I have in simply being an American. Only in America could a gal from the least populated county in the state (and quite possibly the nation) participate in this great process.



**TIME ZONE CHANGE**

Wayne County will change from central time to eastern time with the switch from daylight savings time October 29, 2000.



**NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY**

**Mike Haydon**

Congratulations to Karen Curtis, Robertson County PVA, who was honored recently by being selected to serve as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles, California. This is quite a distinction for the modest PVA from Kentucky's smallest county. Take it from someone who has witnessed the delegate selection process several times, it's not easy to be chosen and takes lots of hard work, determination and organizational skill . . . the same qualities that have made Karen so effective in her roles for the people of Robertson County and in her work with the PVA Association.

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Thank you to all PVAs, deputies and friends who participated in and supported the highly successful KECC golf outing and Bar-B-Que held in Springfield. It was a great day and raised over \$2,700 of the Cabinet's \$40,000 goal for a very worthy charity. Special recognition to the PVA Association for supplying refreshments.

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Speaking of KECC, the last time I saw Lovel Hall was at the PVA Summer Conference. I was explaining to him what KECC was and describing the various charities that benefited. Although I told him it was not necessary, he insisted on making a generous contribution and apologized for not being able to attend the Bar-B-Que.

Each year that I knew Lovel, he grew a little taller in stature. He was a trusted friend and advisor to many PVAs and Cabinet officials alike, a calm voice of reason during some difficult times. Most noteworthy of all he was a fair and even-handed tax administrator for his constituents in Floyd County who, like us, will miss him.



**BENTON BEARS ALL**

Vince Lang

While working over 20 years in the Edmonson County PVA Office, Benton Cowles never missed a summer conference until this year. This summer he opted for tamer company and chose to spend two weeks in the north woods with black bears.

Benton spent his summer vacation in Minnesota at the Vince Shute Wildlife Sanctuary volunteering his time working with wild black bears. Instead of spending time at the Airport Hilton in Florence enjoying all the luxuries that life offers, he instead lived without the conveniences of electricity and running water.

Benton's chores while working with the bears consisted of preparing meals for them made of seeds, nuts and fruits, cleaning up bear droppings and escorting visitors at the sanctuary from their vehicles to an elevated viewing platform.



*Benton is the one in the background*

Although a summer spent far from home in primitive living conditions may not appeal to all, Benton assured me that it was one of the most satisfying adventures of his lifetime. Benton's proof that he lived among the bears is evident by all the outstanding photos taken during his stay. He has promised to bring photos for all to see at the fall conference in October. He'll be there unless a call comes in for assistance from the Zebra and Wildebeest Sanctuary in Botswana.

**IAAO NOTES**

The Kentucky Chapter of IAAO was named Outstanding Chapter - Small Jurisdiction at the IAAO Conference held in Canada September 11 - 14. The Chapter was recognized for all it has accomplished in the short time since its inception in 1996. Teri Bennett, Hardin County PVA, won the Public Information Program Award, which is presented to assessment jurisdictions that have developed and implemented an effective system for the dissemination of information regarding the assessment process to taxpayers.

The chapter also has several activities planned during the fall conference in October. On Monday, members will be visiting patients at Cardinal Hill Hospital to bring "A Pumpkin Full of Cheer". Logan County PVA Ben Brown and Patti Royster have been growing pumpkins all summer for patients to decorate. The chapter will have its annual meeting on Tuesday, October 24, at 4:00. All members should attend. The meeting will be followed by the manager's reception in the indoor pool area. Another reception and silent auction sponsored by IAAO will be held following the manager's reception.

**NEW PVA APPOINTED IN FLOYD COUNTY**

Governor Paul Patton appointed Connie Hancock Property Valuation Administrator in Floyd County. Hancock was one of 12 persons who took a special examination administered by the Department on September 16, 2000.

She has served as a deputy in the Floyd County PVA office for ten years and holds her CKA and SKA designations.

**OFFICES CLOSED FOR HOLIDAYS**

Pursuant to KRS 2.190, all state offices will be closed on Tuesday, November 7, 2000, for Election Day.

Pursuant to KRS 18A.190 state offices will be closed on the following days:

Friday, November 10, 2000 in observance of Veterans Day.

Thursday, November 23 and Friday, November 24, 2000, in observance of Thanksgiving.

Monday, December 25 and Tuesday, December 26, 2000, in observance of Christmas.

*Property Tax News* is a quarterly publication of the Revenue Cabinet's Department of Property Valuation dedicated to increasing communication among professionals involved in the field of assessment administration in Kentucky.

Comments and suggestions for future articles should be addressed to Cindy Meholovitch, Editor, 200 Fair Oaks Lane, Frankfort, KY 40620, (502) 564-8340.

Printing costs paid from state funds.



## DID YOU EVER WONDER?...

For quite some time I've been thinking about writing this article. I remember how confused I used to get as a new PVA trying to get the right PVA with the right county and county seat. Of course, PVA's like Bill Edwards, who would always introduce himself to me as "Bill Green from Edwards County", didn't help a lot! Hopefully, this little article will help some of you, especially any newer PVA's.

Now, Scottsville is the county seat of Allen County, not Scott County, where you'd think it should be. And Roger Pitchford is the PVA of Allen County, not John "Allen" Perry or Ervine Allen. John Allen Perry is not even the PVA of Perry County. That's John Gross. John Allen Perry is in Anderson County. And Ervine Allen belongs in Breathitt County even though the county seat of Estill is Irvine. The county seat of Breathitt County is Jackson. Ronnie Jackson is PVA of Calloway County, whose county seat is Murray.

Oh, by the way, the county seat of John Allen Perry's county is Lawrenceburg. Wonder why they didn't put Lawrenceburg in Lawrence Co? Then Jim Heston's county seat would be Lawrenceburg instead of Louisa.

Kenny Barger is the PVA of Breckinridge County (pronounced Braaackenridge) whose county seat is Hardinsburg. Now wouldn't you think Hardinsburg would be in Hardin Co?

Guess what?!? Neither Morgantown nor Morganfield are in Morgan County. Noooooooo....that would have been too easy. Morgantown is the county seat of Butler County, where Richard Embry is, and Morganfield is the county seat of Union County, Ben Waller's neck of the woods. Darrell Bradley works, oops I mean resides in Morgan County, whose county seat is West Liberty, which is

actually located "east" of the Liberty that serves as Casey County's county seat.(?!?) Speaking of Casey County; it's a shame Johnnie Beard is PVA there instead of Jerry Casey, who is PVA of Harrison County.

Did I mention that Larry Scott is not the PVA of Scott County, but instead he's PVA of Carlisle County. Carlisle is the county seat of Nicholas County and Nicholasville is the county seat of Jessamine County. Go figure.

Okay, are you ready for this? Carrollton is actually the county seat of Carroll County (somebody didn't use their imagination!) However, Dave Robertson is PVA there instead of in Robertson County. That's Karen Curtis country.

Bill Carter is the PVA of Warren County, not Carter County. Charles Kiser is PVA of Carter County, whose county seat is Grayson. The county seat of Grayson County is Leitchfield, where ole' James Blanton is. Jerry Blanton is PVA of Harlan County, whose county seat is, believe it or not, Harlan. I don't think the Blanton boys are related....one's a democrat and the other's a republican. There is only six days difference in their ages, though.

Maybe it's because I travel a lot, but don't you just ever just wonder why Hopkinsville is the county seat of Christian County instead of Hopkins County; or why Marion is the county seat of Crittenden County instead of Marion County; or Owensboro is the county seat of Daviess County instead of Owen County and why isn't Rodney Owens PVA there instead of Russell County. Why is Hickman the county seat of Fulton County instead of Hickman County; or why Clinton is the county seat of Hickman County instead of Clinton County? Why couldn't Madisonville be in Madison County instead of being

county seat of Hopkins County or Russellville be the county seat of Russell County instead of Logan County? Don't you agree that Whitley City would be a perfect county seat for Whitley County instead of McCreary County; Greenville would be much better off as county seat of either Green or Greenup County instead of Muhlenberg County? Hartford should be in Hart County instead of Ohio County and Boonesville should be in Boone County instead of Owsley County. You'd think Franklin would be the county seat of Franklin County instead of Simpson County and Taylorsville would be county seat for Taylor County instead of Spencer County. The county seat for Taylor County is Campbellsville, which would be a lot more practical in Campbell County. Who did all of this anyway?!?

Finally, neither my husband Virgil Monroe or I are PVA in Monroe County. The PVA there is Louis Carter, who is another candidate for Carter County. I'm not sure if Louis and Bill Carter are related, but there is just a county or two between them. Virgil is PVA of Todd County, which would have been a better one for T.W. Todd instead of Pulaski County.

Well, I hope this article helped you some. I felt as chair of the Education Committee, it was my obligation. Remember, though, all this is subject to change every four years!

Sincerely,  
Neila L. Mercer  
Monroe Co. PVA  
(Gotcha!)



# ATTENTION CONFERENCE ATTENDEES

*Two significant changes are being implemented at this year's conference, one involving banquet and one involving credit for workshop attendance.*

This year, banquet attendees will be asked to choose if there is someone or some group that they would like to sit with. (This will help ensure that everyone gets to sit together and eliminate "saving" seats). Upon registering, you will exchange your banquet ticket for a dinner reservation ticket. The dinner reservation ticket will have your name and the table number you are seated at. The tables seat ten people, so try to plan ahead.

This year, instead of sign-in sheets to verify workshop attendance, PVAs will get a form that will have to be stamped at each workshop. The form will be included in each PVAs packet. At the end of the session, PVAs must get the form stamped by the room monitor, who will be located at a table immediately outside the door.

## SEE YOU IN LEXINGTON FOR CONFERENCE 2000!

